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**STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

on the work of the

**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

FOR THE YEAR 1959

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R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.C.H., D.P.H.

*(Medical Officer of Health)*

D. F. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.

*(Public Health Inspector)*

# STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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*Chairman : MR. R. F. ABBOTTS.*

*Vice-Chairman : MR. P. N. HIGGS.*

*Members of the Council :*

Mr. W. J. Ariss	Mr. S. James
Mr. J. W. Bullock	Mr. A. J. Millington, B.A.
Mr. W. A. Coley, J.P.	Mrs. N. M. L. Millington
Mr. G. T. P. Gregory	Mr. L. J. Perry
Mr. T. J. Higgins	Mrs. F. Pratt
Mr. C. H. Hodgson	Mr. R. G. Ready
Mr. R. R. Hutton	

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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL :

*Medical Officer of Health :*

DR. R. W. MARKHAM, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,  
The Council House, New Street,  
Stourport-on-Severn.

*Telephone Number - Stourport-on-Severn 2318*

*Public Health Inspector :*

MR. J. DUNCAN SMITH, M.A.P.H.I.,  
until the 18th March, 1959.

MR. D. F. HUGHES, M.A.P.H.I.,  
from the 20th April, 1959.

*Public Health Clerk :*

MRS. I. M. MANN

# **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1959**

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Urban District for the year 1959.

The report is divided into the following sections :—

“A” Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

“B” General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

“C” Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

“D” Housing.

“E” Inspection and Supervision of Food.

“F” Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

## **Main Occupations of the Area :**

The principal industries of the area comprise the manufacture of carpets, ceramic insulators, chains for many purposes, wire, cable fans, forges, furnaces, timber production, electric transformers, a tannery, and a vinegar works.

In addition, there are :

- (a) Three large Oil Companies engaged in the storage and distribution of petrol and oil.
- (b) One company engaged in the bulk storage and distribution of imported timber.

All the timber and the majority of the petrol and oil arrives by boat from Avonmouth, Stourport-on-Severn being the head of the portion of the River Severn which is navigable by commercial traffic.

There is also one of the largest Power Stations in the Midlands.

## SECTION "A."

AREA IN ACRES	....	....	....	....	....	3,218
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	(end of 1959)					
according to rate books	....	....	....	....	....	3,558
RATEABLE VALUE	....	....	....	....	....	£216,396
SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE	....	....	....	....	....	£849
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF RESIDENT POPULATION (mid-1959)	....	....	....	....	....	11,390

### LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	TOTALS.	
			1959	1958
LEGITIMATE	88	109	197	161
ILLEGITIMATE	8	6	14	4
	96	115	211	165

THE BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated population for the Urban District was	....	....	18.5	14.7
THE BIRTH RATE for England and Wales for the same period was	....	....	16.5	16.4
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS per cent. of Total Live Births	....	....	6.6	2.42

### STILL BIRTHS.

	Male	Female	TOTALS.	
			1959	1958
LEGITIMATE	4	2	6	3
ILLEGITIMATE	—	—	—	2
	4	2	6	5

THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Live and Still Births was	....	....	27.6	30.3
THE STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total Live and Still Births for England and Wales for the same period was	....	....	20.7	21.6

	Male	Female	TOTALS.	
			1959	1958
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	100	117	217	170

### DEATHS.

	Male	Female	TOTALS.	
			1959	1958
Total Deaths	78	75	153	94
THE DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated population was	....	....	13.4	8.4

THE DEATH RATE for the whole of England and Wales per 1,000 population was .... .... ....	11.6	11.7
MATERNAL DEATHS (including abortion) ....	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 births (live and still) was .... .... ....	Nil	Nil
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE for England and Wales for the same period per 1,000 births (live and still) was .... .... .... ....	0.38	0.43

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Male	Female	1959	1958
LEGITIMATE .... .... ....	3	4	7	3
ILLEGITIMATE .... .... ....	1	—	1	—
	4	4	8	3

THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the year per 1,000 total live births was .... .... ....	37.9	18.2
THE INFANT MORTALITY RATE for the same period for England and Wales per 1,000 total live births was .... .... .... .... ....	22.0	22.5
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births was .... .... .... .... ....	33.2	12.4
INFANT MORTALITY RATE per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births was .... .... .... .... ....	4.7	Nil

### NEONATAL MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under four weeks numbered 7, representing a rate of 33.2 per 1,000 live births.

The deaths of infants under four weeks in England and Wales during 1959 represented a rate of 15.8 per 1,000 related live births.

### CAUSES OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Male	Female
Broncho Pneumonia .... .... ....	1	—
Atelectasis and Prematurity .... .... ....	—	1
Prematurity .... .... ....	1	2
Prematurity and Meningocele .... .... ....	1	—
Mediastinal Lymphoblastoma .... .... ....	—	1
Atelectasis .... .... ....	1	—

### EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE.

The deaths of infants under one week numbered 7, representing a rate of 33.2 per 1,000 live births.

## PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE.

Still births and deaths under one week combined numbered 13,  
representing a rate of 59.9 per 1,000 total live and still births.

			Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	13	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough	....	....	—	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	—	—

*Ref. CAUSES OF DEATHS (including Transferable Deaths).*

No.			Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	—	2
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	....	2	2
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	....	7	1
12.	Malignant, Neoplasm, Breast	....	—	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	....	—	2
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	....	4	6
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	....	13	9
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	....	12	9
19.	Hypertension, with Heart Disease	....	—	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	....	13	20
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	....	2	—
22.	Influenza	....	3	1
23.	Pneumonia	....	4	4
24.	Bronchitis	....	5	6
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	....	1	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	....	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	....	11	5
34.	All other Accidents	....	1	3

## SECTION "B."

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE FOR THE AREA.

#### Laboratory Services.

Producer samples of milk and water are examined by the County Laboratory, Worcester, together with food for chemical analysis. The major part of the bacteriological and pathological work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

#### Ambulance Service.

This service is administered by the County Council as Local Health Authority, and based in Kidderminster. An ambulance for infectious cases is stationed at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital (under the control of the Regional Hospital Board).

#### Hospitals.

All hospitals are administered by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, through their Management Committee. The Kidderminster General Hospital receives the majority of hospital patients from this district. The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital provides the district and surrounding area with maternity beds.

Cases admitted to the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital during the year	....	....	....	507
Women delivered	....	....	....	400
Infants born alive	....	(including 1 pair of twins)	....	389
Infants' deaths	....	....	....	1
Infants stillborn	....	....	....	12
Maternal deaths	....	....	....	Nil
Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	5
Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	....	....	....	Nil

#### Infectious Diseases.

Beds for infectious diseases are provided at Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen. One case of Measles and Bronchitis was admitted from the Stourport-on-Severn Urban District during the year.

#### Tuberculosis.

Out-patient treatment is provided at the Kidderminster Hospital Dispensary, where Dr. Cronin attends Tuesday evenings, Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. In-patients' treatment is arranged at Knightwick Sanatorium and St. Wulstan's Sanatorium, Malvern. Prevention and after-care remain the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, and the service is administered locally by the After-Care Sub-Committee of the Divisional Area Health Committee.

## **Venereal Disease.**

Treatment and "follow-up" are carried out at the following :—  
Kidderminster and District General Hospital.  
Worcester Royal Infirmary.  
Other neighbouring hospitals, as required.

## **Nursing in the Home.**

The service is administered by the Local Health Authority. There are :—

- (1) Three nurses who deal principally with Midwifery and General Nursing. A car is provided.
- (2) Two whole-time Health Visitors and School Nurses who attend school medical inspections, treat minor ailments at the school clinics and visit cases of mental defect. They visit infants and children in the home and are responsible for their welfare from fourteen days until they attend school at five years, when they continue to supervise under the school scheme. They act as general health advisers to the family in conjunction with the doctors, and give help wherever practicable, particularly with the aging members of the family. They attend all Infant Welfare Clinics in their area. For this purpose the Urban District is divided into two areas, one nurse being responsible for the Town Centre, Lower Heath and surrounding district, Areley Kings, Astley and the old part of the Walshes Estate, and the other one for the north side of Bewdley Road, Newtown, Wilden, Burlish and the new part of Walshes Estate.

- (3) A whole-time Health Visitor who visits cases of Tuberculosis.

## **Clinics.**

### **(a) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS :**

Ante-Natal Clinics are held every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, in the charge of Doctors MacArthur, C. Mackie, Winter, Black, and W. T. Mackie and Matron, respectively. A clinic is also held by the district midwives on the second and fourth Monday in each month.

### **(b) INFANT WELFARE CLINICS :**

- (i) Lucy Baldwin, held first and third Fridays in each month.
- (ii) Wilden, held third Wednesday in month.
- (iii) Areley Kings, held in Parish Hall, Areley Kings, on the second and fourth Thursday afternoons. (In the charge of Dr. Winter).

Children under five are immunised at these clinics, and vaccination is carried out as required.

In addition, poliomyelitis vaccination was given to those "under-fives" whose parents had requested it, in accordance with the supply of vaccine.

Separate sessions were held at the Mitton Street Clinic for immunisation against poliomyelitis for all those age groups who were eligible at the time.

## SECTION "C."

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply.

The majority of dwellings in the area are supplied with water from the Council's mains. The source of supply is deep bore belonging to Bewdley Corporation, the storage reservoirs are situated at Mount Pleasant.

Samples taken regularly from the general mains for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination have proved to be satisfactory.

To meet the difficulties of supply in the Areley Kings area a new mains connection was laid to the Martley Rural District main supply at Ridleys Cross. This was brought into operation on the 31st August, 1959, since when supplies have been adequate.

#### Drainage and Sewerage.

Disposal of sewage at the Oldington Disposal Works used jointly with the Boroughs of Kidderminster and Bewdley has continued satisfactorily.

## SECTION "D."

#### Housing.

41 houses were completed by the Council during the year, and 36 by private enterprise.

Number of Council houses in Urban District	....	....	1,268
Number of huttied dwellings requisitioned by Council	....	....	10
Number of houses requisitioned by Council	....	....	Nil
Number of applicants for Council houses (168 ordinary applications and 67 old persons' bungalows and flats)	....	....	235
Number of above applicants who are living in lodgings (70 ordinary applicants and 15 old people)	....	....	85
Approximate total number of persons represented by application list (514 ordinary persons and 85 old people)	....	....	599

With regard to houses considered unfit for human habitation in the district, one Closing Order was made during the year.

Number of families re-housed from condemned properties : 2.

#### Burlish Estate.

At the end of the year, 10 converted bungalows were still inhabited.

Most of the inhabitants would come in the general category of "problem" families, for whom suitable accommodation is difficult to find. As the land on which these bungalows stand is being sold, probably for new building development, the Council are considering, in conjunction with the Welfare Department of the County Council, suitable action to take in each case.

## **Walshes Farm Areas.**

### **(a) THE COUNCIL'S CAMPING SITE :**

This site contained approximately 52 caravans and 180 tents during the holiday period.

It has not yet proved possible to convert the remaining sanitary accommodation to water carriage, and in any case the cesspool taking the effluent from the existing water closets proved inadequate in such a fine season.

After the holiday period had showed up the inadequacy of this cesspool it was agreed that extensions should be carried out before the next season and arrangements made for more frequent emptying during the next holiday period.

The Council have under consideration a scheme to augment the sanitary accommodation and improve the washing facilities on this site, and it is hoped the work can be undertaken before the 1960 season.

### **(b) HAYWOOD'S MEADOW :**

This site is occupied by approximately 150 holiday caravans, bungalows and similar structures, and during the August holidays a large number of tents occupy the recreation area of the field.

Despite the fact that the site owner was required by the terms of his new licence to provide improved facilities, little or nothing has been done in this respect.

## **Houseboats.**

During the past year no serious complaint has been received arising from the occupation of houseboats in the basins.

## **SECTION "E."**

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

#### **Ice Cream Manufacture.**

The number of manufacturers of ice cream on the register is five, and the number of retailers of ice cream is 55. Regular samples have been taken from the manufacturers, and these have proved satisfactory.

#### **Food Poisoning.**

No cases of food poisoning have occurred during the year in this Urban District.

#### **Adulteration of Foods.**

Mr. Spencer, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Worcestershire County Council, reports that the following samples were taken during the year :—

Milk Samples.....	....	....	....	111
Miscellaneous Food.....	....	....	....	66
Drugs .....	....	....	....	2

Eleven milk samples were deficient in fat. As a result of investigations, these deficiencies were considered due to poor cows or uneven intervals between milking times. 25 samples deficient in solids-not-

fat were certified by the Analyst as genuine milk of poor quality. One sample of milk contained 0.5% extraneous water, and the seller was cautioned.

Two samples of food other than milk were reported against as follows: A "Cream of Asparagus Soup Powder" contained insufficient fat to justify the use of the word "cream." The manufacturer claimed his labels had been modified some time before to meet this objection and submitted a specimen of his new label. Investigations showed the sample to be very old stock. A canned "Casserole Steak," Australian, contained only 52% meat. This was considered low, and the importers were warned.

Two large dairies in the areas of adjoining authorities distribute milk in Stourport Urban District, and milk producers' consignments going into these dairies were sampled from time to time. Altogether, 781 samples were taken. 69 of these samples were deficient in fat. The composite fat content of each consignment was, however, correct. 114 samples deficient in solids-not-fat were certified to be genuine milk of poor quality. 5 samples taken from churns in one producer's consignment contained extraneous water in quantities varying from 2.5% to 9.9%. Proceedings were taken at Kidderminster, and a fine of £25 with £7 5s. 0d. costs was imposed.

## SECTION "F."

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised for the first time during the year, either at clinics, schools or by general practitioners, was as follows:—

Pre-School Children....	....	....	160
School Children	....	....	18
Reinforcing Doses	....	....	126

#### General.

Cases of infectious diseases notified during the year are shown in the following table:—

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Measles ....	371	1	—
Erysipelas ....	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever ....	11	—	—
Tuberculosis ....	8	4	6
Acute Influenza			
Pneumonia ....	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	7	—	—
Whooping Cough ....	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—

## Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary,		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
TOTALS ....	1	2	3	1	2	4	—	—

## B.C.G. Inoculations.

The County Council scheme for the testing and inoculation of susceptible children in their thirteenth year continued satisfactorily, and the following are the figures for the year :—

Number of consents for testing and inoculation	198
Percentage	90.4%
Number Tested	198
Result Positive	19
Result Negative	174
Percentage Positive	9.8%
Vaccinated ....	174

## Conclusion.

It is interesting to note that there has been a marked increase in the live birth-rate for the district, but a disquieting feature of this is the proportion of these which are illegitimate.

The sanitary services provided by the Council have in general proved satisfactory, and the water supply difficulties at Areley Kings appear to have been solved, for the present at least.

However, there are some serious problems remaining, notably the inadequate drainage of the Lower Heath area and much improved sanitary arrangements on the Council's Camping Site and on the privately-controlled camping site.

I should like to thank the Chairman, all Members of the Council, and the Council's Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
R. W. MARKHAM,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959.**

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

I have the honour to present the report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1959. Mr. J. D. Smith held this post until the 19th March, 1959, leaving to take up an appointment in Northern Rhodesia, and I commenced my duties on the 20th April, 1959.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

### **Refuse Collection.**

It is very satisfying to record that this essential service has been maintained on a weekly basis throughout the year, in spite of the usual shortage of staff at holiday times and during periods of sickness.

The collection of refuse continues to be carried out by the Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers in the main part of the town, the remainder being collected by the Karrier Bantam low loader. Whilst this latter vehicle serves the purpose very well, it is not the most satisfactory means of collecting refuse, because it is an open lorry. It is to be hoped that in the not too distant future all refuse in the district may be collected in closed vehicles and thus avoid any nuisance.

There has been considerable residential development during the year in various parts of the town, each new dwelling adding to the work of the collectors. This increase has been met temporarily by the addition of one man to the collecting crew, but it is anticipated that the extent of the residential development will be such that the existing method of collection may have to be reviewed to meet the extra work.

At the beginning of the year, my predecessor carried out a survey of the dustbins in use in the district to find that there were many which were unsatisfactory. Informal action was taken to draw the attention of the householders to these, and generally they have complied with the request to provide a new dustbin. There is no doubt that the complete answer to this continuing problem is the provision of dustbins by the local authority for a small annual charge, or as part of the cleansing service.

### **Trade Refuse.**

The facilities provided for the disposal of trade refuse remain the same, business premises having one bin emptied weekly without charge, each additional bin being charged for at the rate of 20s. per half-year per bin. Those wishing to do so may dispose of their own refuse at the Council's tip, a tipping charge of 2s. 6d. per load being levied.

## Refuse Disposal.

The town's refuse is disposed of at Bonemill Quarry, and the character of the site lends itself admirably to this purpose, although certain minor difficulties are experienced in gaining access to some parts when extending the tipping area.

Every effort is made to ensure that the refuse is disposed of in accordance with the recommendations of the Minister of Health. Owing to the increase of the work on the collection side, it is becoming more difficult to carry out the requisite covering. There is no doubt that the real answer to this problem is the provision of a mechanical shovel, particularly as there is ample covering material available on the site.

It is interesting to note that during the very hot weather of this year there was very little nuisance experienced from flies at the tip face, although the tip man had to face the hazard of miriads of wasps.

The very hot dry summer brought with it the serious risk of the outbreak of fire, and on several occasions it was necessary to call on the fire brigade to put out grass and gorse fires in common with many other areas.

## SALVAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

### Waste Paper.

The collection of waste paper continued on the same lines as in previous years, the Karrier Bantam collecting from all the shops and factories, and the refuse collectors from the dwelling-houses.

### Details of Salvageable Material Sold During 1959.

	1959 Weight. tons, cwts. qrs.	1959 Amount			1958 Amount.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ....	121 7 1	742	4	0	776	16	7
Jacquards ....	— — —	—	—	—	—	15	16 0
Cast-Iron ....	— — —	—	—	—	—	21	0 0
Light Scrap Metal	9 13 2	37	14	9	36	19	2
Tins ....	— — —	—	—	—	—	59	9 4
Rags, String, etc.	1 8 —	26	10	0	—	1	5 0
Aluminium ....	— 3 —	6	0	0	—	18	0
Mixed Tin Scrap	— — —	—	—	—	—	5	0 0
	132 11 3	£812	8	9	£917	4	1

### Cleansing of Pail Closets and Cesspools.

There are 115 pail closets in the Urban District which are emptied weekly, the majority of these being in the Lower Heath area. The question of sewerage this area, which is mainly scheduled for industrial development, is being investigated by Consultant Engineers. As mentioned in previous reports, this is likely to be an expensive scheme, but would be a great step forward in the sanitary circumstances of the district.

From time to time requests are received from the adjacent areas of the Martley Rural District Council and Bewdley Corporation for cesspools to be emptied. When possible, these requests are dealt with, an appropriate charge being made on an hourly basis to the Local Authority concerned.

### Details of Revenue from Private Work.

Chargeable work outside the district : £55 17s. 6d.

Chargeable work inside the district : £49 10s. 0d.

### Outdoor Staff Employed on Public Cleansing.

- 2 Refuse Freight Driver/Loaders.
- 1 Driver (Salvage, etc.).
- 7 Refuse Loaders.
- 1 Tip Man.
- 1 Salvage Baler.
- 1 Gully/Cesspool Emptier Driver.
- 1 Gully/Cesspool Emptier Attendant.

### RODENT CONTROL.

The treatment of all types of premises in the district has continued either as a result of complaint by individuals or by discovery during routine surveys by the Rodent Operator. Dwelling-houses are cleared free of charge, but in the case of business premises a charge is made based on time and materials or under annual contract. During 1959 the Council undertook two such contracts amounting to an annual sum of £50.

The sewers serving the town were test baited on two occasions during the year, only minor infestations being discovered which were dealt with effectively. Burlish Camp continues to be a source of trouble owing to the many defects in the sewer system, but with the diminishing use of the site for residential purposes it is expected that infestations will not be so great.

The refuse tip and sewage pumping stations are kept under surveillance, and treatments are carried out regularly. Placing the screenings from the pumping stations in containers prior to disposal has helped to reduce the infestations.

### Summary of Work Carried out during 1959.

Type of Premises.	Number of Treatments.
Local Authority's Property	55
Agricultural Property	8
Business Premises....	49
Dwelling-houses ....	715

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The excellence of the weather during the summer of this year saw a greatly increased number of people visiting Stourport, and particularly the riverside. In consequence, very heavy demands were made

on the public conveniences, especially those at Bridge Street. The Severn Meadows conveniences were not patronised to anything like the extent even at peak periods. Temporary direction signs at times of heavy congestion could be well used to advantage.

The provision of public conveniences is considered essential to the development of the western bank of the river, and it is to be hoped that such facilities will become a reality in the near future.

Considerable damage continues to occur to the Bridge Street conveniences, particularly to the locks and springs to the compartment doors and toilet roll-holders. Such irresponsible behaviour deserves punishment, but the offenders are very difficult to apprehend. It is proposed that collapsible gates be installed at the entrances which will be closed each evening and no doubt will reduce the amount of destruction.

Repairs and decorations were carried out to the Lion Hill conveniences during the year, and they continue to serve that part of the town adequately.

#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

The Urban District is fortunate in this respect, there being very little nuisance in this direction. Occasional complaints have been received by the Public Health Department of atmospheric pollution, which on investigation have been found to be due to mechanical failure rather than neglect. The occupiers of factory premises are realising the need for a cleaner atmosphere and are doing all they can to co-operate in this matter.

The grit deposit gauges were not utilised as anticipated, but it is hoped to continue this interesting work in the ensuing year.

#### HOUSING.

The inspection of dwelling-houses, either on complaint or as a routine, to secure satisfactory living conditions continues to form an important aspect of the work of the Department. There was an even more noticeable falling off of the use of the procedure under the Rent Act, the majority of the repairs being secured under the Public Health and Housing Acts. It has not been found necessary to go further than the service of an informal letter except in one or two cases to ensure work will be carried out.

The following are details of applications for certificates of dis-repair received during 1959:—

Number of applications received .....	3
Number of applications approved by Local Authority .....	3
Number of undertakings received from owners .....	2
Number of Certificates actually issued .....	1

#### Remedy of Defects during the Year Without the Service of Formal Notices.

Number of dwelling-houses at which defects were remedied .....	11
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## Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	.....	.....	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	.....	.....	1
(3)	Number of Undertakings not to re-let accepted	.....	.....	Nil
(4)	Number of houses demolished following Statutory Action	.....	.....	4

(b) *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	.....	.....	1
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied following formal notices	.....	.....	1

(c) *Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas):*

No further proceedings have been taken under this part of the Housing Act in this year, but it is pleasing to note that the houses which were the subject of a Clearance order at Mitton Street have been demolished and old people's dwellings erected in their place.

## SUMMARY OF REPAIRS EFFECTED FOLLOWING PRELIMINARY OR STATUTORY ACTION.

Structural Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Roof Repairs	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Eaves-gutters Repaired or Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Windows or Doors Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Dampness Remedied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Wall and Ceiling Plaster Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
W.C. Pans Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
W.C. Fittings Repaired or Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
W.C. Structures Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Burst Pipes Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Drains Unblocked and Cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Drains Repaired and Ventilated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
New Drainage System Installed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Public Sewers Unblocked and Cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	64
Houses Disinfested (including Wasps Nests)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Houses Disinfected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Floor Boards Repaired or Replaced	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Firegrates Repaired or Replaced	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Washing Facilities Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
New Dustbins provided after notice	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	57
New Dustbins Provided by Council on request	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Pail Closets Converted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
First-Aid Kits Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
FOOD PREMISES :						
Redecorated	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Washing Facilities Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Clothes Lockers Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

## FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

### **1. Food Hygiene.**

Routine inspections of food premises have been carried out whenever possible, and generally the standard has been found to be satisfactory. Informal action has been taken to secure compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations on several occasions, and this has had complete success.

I have noted that a number of food premises have installed refrigerated display cabinets which adequately protect the foodstuffs from contamination.

### **2. Meat Inspection.**

The two private slaughter-houses in the district continue to be used for slaughtering. The high quality of the meat produced has been maintained and the incidence of disease remains at a remarkably low level.

The new slaughter-house regulations which came into operation at the beginning of the year mark a great step forward in the required standards of construction, facilities and hygiene. The Urban District is fortunate to have two slaughter-houses which, with very little alteration, may be brought up to those standards.

Reports on the existing and probable future requirements of the district for slaughter-house facilities and the slaughter-house facilities available to meet these requirements have to be prepared and submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

ANIMALS INSPECTED.

	<i>Cattle (excluding cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
NUMBER KILLED .... ....	67	Nil	7	1,216	589	Nil
NUMBER INSPECTED .... ....	64	Nil	4	1,037	533	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI : Whole Carcass con- demned .... .... ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned .... .... ....	6	Nil	Nil	4	16	Nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysti- cerci .... .... .... ....	9.375	Nil	Nil	.386	3.001	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : Whole carcass con- demned .... .... ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned .... .... ....	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with Tuberculosis ....	1.563	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
CYSTICEROSIS .... .... ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

### 3. Other Foods.

At the request of the shopkeepers in the district, 24 visits were made to premises to inspect various foodstuffs suspected of being unfit for human consumption. The following items of food were condemned and surrendered for disposal by burying at a suitable depth on the Council's refuse tip :—

Bacon	....	....	....	....	15½ lbs.
Canned Fruit	....	....	....	....	74 tins
,,	Fruit Juice	....	....	....	3 "
,,	Vegetables	....	....	....	33 "
,,	Tomatoes	....	....	....	80 "
,,	Fish	....	....	....	19 "
,,	Meat	....	....	....	85 "
,,	Milk	....	....	....	5 "
,,	Soup	....	....	....	15 "
,,	Bacon	....	....	....	1 "
,,	Rice Pudding	....	....	....	4 "
Pork Luncheon Meat	....	....	....	....	8 lbs.
Corned Beef	....	....	....	....	631½ lbs.
Cooked Ham	....	....	....	....	48 lbs.
Chocolate Tea Cakes	....	....	....	....	276
Wafer Biscuits	....	....	....	....	½ tin
Ice Cream Cones	....	....	....	....	2 boxes
Jam Biscuits	....	....	....	....	15 packets
Jam	....	....	....	....	27 jars
Pickles	....	....	....	....	7 jars

### 4. Milk Supply.

Stourport-on-Severn is situated in a specified area in accordance with the Milk (Special Designation) Act, 1949, which means that only designated milk, *i.e.*, Pasteurised, Sterilised or Tuberculin-Tested, is permitted to be sold by retail. There are no treatment plants in the Urban District, and the local dairymen act only as distributors of bottled supplies brought in from outside. There are also a number of milk retailers from other areas who sell milk under Supplementary Licences issued by this Local Authority.

Number of registered distributors .... 10

#### Licences Granted :

##### Dealers' Licences—

Tuberculin-Tested	....	....	....	3
Sterilised	....	....	....	6
Pasteurised	....	....	....	5

##### Supplementary Licences—

Tuberculin-Tested	....	....	....	5
Sterilised	....	....	....	5
Pasteurised	....	....	....	5

### 5. Ice Cream.

There are only two manufacturers of ice cream at present operating in the Urban District, and both are making the complete cold mix, although one has equipment suitable for the hot mix in accordance

with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. There are, in addition, fifty-three premises registered for retail sale and storage only.

Two samples of ice cream manufactured in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, and both were reported as being Grade I. The greater quantity of ice cream sold by registered retailers is produced by the larger concerns, many of them of national repute, and is generally of a high standard of quality and purity.

## 6. Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Section 16.

Registration of premises used for the manufacture of prepared foods :—

Number on register : 7

### DETAILS OF TYPES OF FOOD MANUFACTURED.

<i>Number of Premises.</i>	<i>Food Manufactured.</i>
1 ....	Sausages, cooked meats and meat pies.
1 ....	Sausages only.
3 ....	Sausages and pickled tongues.
1 ....	Meat pickling.
1 ....	Cooked ham only.

Number of inspections made : 3

### NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA.

<i>Type of Business.</i>	<i>Number</i>
Works Canteens .... .... .... .... ....	9
School Kitchens .... .... .... .... ....	2
Bakehouses .... .... .... .... ....	1
Bakery and Confectionery .... .... .... ....	7
Grocers and Provision Merchants .... ....	15
General Food Shops .... .... .... ....	25
Sweet Shops .... .... .... .... ....	7
Greengrocers .... .... .... .... ....	3
Greengrocers and Fish Shops .... .... ....	4
Butchers' Shops .... .... .... .... ....	10
Cooked Meats .... .... .... .... ....	2
Fish Friers .... .... .... .... ....	4
Licensed Premises (including Clubs and Off-Licences) .... .... .... .... ....	50
Cafes and Snack Bars .... .... .... ....	14
Mobile Canteens .... .... .... .... ....	2
Mobile Fish Friers .... .... .... .... ....	1

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The two premises licensed as Pet Shops under the above-mentioned Act are inspected from time to time, and no contraventions have been noticed.

## CANAL BOATS.

There are no Canal Boats as defined by Section 258 of the Public Health Act, 1936, at present using the canal. It has been interesting to note, however, that there has been a vast improvement in the appearance of the Canal Basins. This is due to the increasing number of pleasure craft which are appearing on the waterways throughout the country.

A close watch must be kept on this development because if the number of boats continues to increase as at present I can foresee difficulties arising concerning the satisfactory disposal of sewage and other waste matter.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES.

Number of enquiries made	....	....	Nil
Number of rooms disinfected	....	....	1

Disinfectant is provided free to the occupiers of any house where a case of infectious disease has occurred. Rooms are disinfected where necessary or on request.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no Offensive Trades within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936, carried out in this district.

## CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES.

The three privately-owned sites in this district continue to operate, and the site owned and administered by the Local Authority has been improved and enlarged. Plans are in the course of preparation for the construction of a new sanitary block to serve the main caravan site, which will take the place of the temporary chemical closets now in use. A hard road was made during the year which provides for improved access to the site for motor vehicles.

## FACTORIES, ACT, 1937.

Total number of Factories on Register	....	55
Factories with Mechanical Power	....	52
Factories with no Mechanical Power	....	3

The following is a summary of inspections made during the year, with details of defects found and remedied :—

Total number of inspections	....	25
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<i>Sanitary Conveniences.</i>	<i>Defects found.</i>	<i>Defects remedied.</i>
(a) Insufficient	....	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	....	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	....	—
(d) Other Offences	....	—

## Section 34.

There were no Certificates as to Means of Escape in Case of Fire issued during the year.

## Outworkers.

There are no persons at present registered as outworkers.

### REGISTER OF FACTORIES (31ST DECEMBER, 1959)

Manufacture of Agricultural Implements	....	....	1
Blacksmith	....	....	1
Builders' Yard	....	....	4
Battery Reconstruction	....	....	1
Builders	....	....	2
Chaff-Cutters	....	....	1
Carpet Manufacturers	....	....	1
Civil Engineer	....	....	1
Engineers	....	....	3
Food Manufacturers	....	....	7
Gravel Pits	....	....	2
Manufacture of Chains	....	....	1
Manufacture of Leather Goods	....	....	1
Manufacture of Packing Cases	....	....	1
Manufacture of Wood Articles	....	....	1
Manufacture of Ceramic Insulators	....	....	1
Manufacture of Electrical Components	....	....	2
Making of Lock Gates	....	....	1
Motor and Motor-Cycle Engineers	....	....	5
Milliner	....	....	1
Joinery	....	....	1
Manufacture of Concrete Blocks	....	....	1
Boat Building	....	....	2
Power Plant	....	....	1
Petrol Depots	....	....	3
Repair of Canal Boats	....	....	1
Repair of Chains	....	....	1
Tannery	....	....	1
Timber Merchants	....	....	4
Vinegar Works	....	....	1
Wire Manufacturers	....	....	1
			—
			55

### SUMMARY OF NOTICES SERVED.

#### Preliminary Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936	....	....	....	17
Food Regulations	....	....	....	2
				—
				19

#### Statutory Notices.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93	....	....	3
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## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS, 1959.

Rent Act ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6
Housing Act—Inspections on Complaint ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Housing Act—Routine ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	35
Public Health Act—on complaint ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	100
Public Health Act—Routine ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	82
Re-visits—Housing Act ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
Re-visits—Public Health Act ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	65
Re-visits—Others ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23
Work in Progress ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	10
Food Shops—General ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	34
Food Preparation Premises ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Restaurant and Canteen Kitchens ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	9
Licensed Premises ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	3
Ice Cream Dealers ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	18
Ice Cream Manufacturers ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Fish Friers ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Dairies ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Milk Distributors ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Factories—Mechanical Power ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
Caravan Sites ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	36
House Boats ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Controlled Tip ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	209
Piggeries ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Public Conveniences ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	39
Survey for Infestation (P.D.P.A. 1949): Business Premises ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
"    "    "    "    "    Local Authority Property ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
"    "    "    "    "    Dwelling-houses ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
"    "    "    "    "    Agricultural Property ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Miscellaneous Inspections and Visits ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	165
Pet Shops ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
Visits to Inspect Food ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	27
Slaughterhouses—Meat Inspection ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	208
Slaughterhouses—Routine ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	13
Mortuary ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
Water Supply ....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
							1,241

### Conclusion.

In my first year as Public Health Inspector to the Council there has been a great deal to learn, and I wish to extend my thanks to the Council's staff for their great assistance during the year.

I have endeavoured to carry out the duties placed upon the Public Health Department in full, but regret that there has not been much time available for regular routine inspections of premises under my surveillance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
D. F. HUGHES,  
*Public Health Inspector.*



